

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating the current status of each claim and including amendments currently entered as highlighted.

1. (currently amended) A method for producing abrasive non-woven cloth comprising:

- (a) forming a non-woven web of fibers including at least:
 - (i) a first layer adjacent to a first surface of the web containing at least about 5% by weight of thermoplastic fibers, and
 - (ii) a second layer of fibers adjacent to a second surface of the web, said second layer having a composition different from a composition of said first layer;
- (b) processing the web so as to interlink the fibers to form a cloth including layers corresponding to said first and second layers of fibers, said processing patterning the web so as to generate a pattern of raised regions and lowered regions in said first surface; and
- (c) performing heat treatment on said web sufficient to cause at least part of said thermoplastic fibers to undergo changes in physical morphology, thereby imparting abrasive properties to at least said raised regions of said first surface.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~forming said non-woven web is implemented so as to include at least a second layer adjacent to a second surface of the web, said second layer containing~~ contains primarily fibers which do not undergo changes in physical morphology under said heat treatment.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said patterning is implemented so as to cause migration of at least a proportion of fibers within said first layer from said lowered regions to said raised regions.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said patterning is implemented so as to cause migration of a majority of fibers making up said first layer in said lowered regions to said raised regions.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patterning is implemented by use of water jets to displace fibers.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said water jets are directed towards a portion of said web passing over a cylinder with a perforated surface.

7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said water jets are directed towards a portion of said web passing over a cylinder with a netting surface.

8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said water jets are directed towards a portion of said web passing along a patterned conveyor belt.

9. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 5, claim 1, wherein said processing includes further comprising a step of employing~~ water jets to cause entanglement of fibers in the web.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patterning is implemented such that said raised regions include a plurality of isolated projecting features surrounded by said lowered regions.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said patterning is implemented such that said raised regions include a plurality of elongated ridges.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic fibers have a weight of no more than about 4.5 grams per 10,000 meters.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic fibers have a weight of no more than about 2.2 grams per 10,000 meters.

14. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first layer contains at least about 10% by weight of said thermoplastic fibers.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first layer contains less than about 50% by weight of said thermoplastic fibers.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first layer contains more than about 50% by weight of said thermoplastic fibers.

17-27. (canceled)